

Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

Boise, Idaho

August, 1997

Volume 1, Number 8

News

Another busy month! A lot was accomplished, however. As I finished up last month's newsletter, the Boise River Festival was getting started and I needed to head for Salt Lake City for the Token and Coin Show. Since I wanted to get the River Festival cancellation on the newsletter, I fought the traffic, found a parking place blocks away, and headed for the Postal Service kiosk in Ann Morrison Park. I had gotten a later start than anticipated, and didn't get there until after 4:00 p.m. Then I found that they weren't going to open the booth until 4:30. So I waited and got the cancellations, the first ones made besides the packets they had pre-made. Bottom line is that the Thursday, June 26, 1997 cancellation is probably the scarcest as it was made only between 4:30 and 10:00 that day. On the other three days, they were open from 9:00 a.m.

I got to the Salt Lake show shortly after it opened on Friday. There were 20-30 dealers, many of whom had tokens. There were probably 100-200 Idaho tokens there, but only a few I needed. Bob Campbell had a draft copy of his Utah catalog there; it is certainly an improvement over the current Utah catalog, but it does not have photos or rubbings (yet).

After Greg Manos got off from work we met and went to his place for a couple of hours work taking pictures of his tokens for which I needed photographs. I had to leave in time to pick up my kids at Lagoon. We started again Saturday morning and we worked steadily into the night. When the job was done, Greg had a huge pile of tokens to refile into his collection and I had 25 rolls of 36-exposure film taken. At about that same time, my kids called to say they were sunburned and had gotten their fill of Lagoon. I had intended to visit Frontier Village at Lagoon to see David Freed's token display, but we were all too pooped to make it this trip. Thanks a million, Greg, for working with me on this project!

I was back on the road on July 2. A couple of high school buddies and I met in Burley for dinner. On the way down, I took a few minutes at the Twin Falls County Courthouse, but didn't have enough time to find anything.

And then on July 6, my older daughter and I left for Spokane where she is attending a debate camp. On the way there, my car developed an overheating problem, so I had to leave it at a garage in Pullman, WA, and rent a car to go on to Spokane. Back in Pullman the next morning, while awaiting its repair, I thought I might see Bob Berg at the South Grand Avenue McDonald's. Sure enough, he arrived for morning coffee right on time, and we had a good visit. We didn't even bring out the traders!

Returning to Boise, I went via Troy and Kendrick to Orofino, where I checked out the Clearwater County Courthouse. This was the first one where I didn't get an invitation to look in the vault for what I wanted. The clerk brought out a book at a time to the lobby. It was a time-consuming process, and I needed to get going, so I settled for finding information on the Pastime in Elk River and Aldrich & Nichols in Orofino. Maybe next trip...

I took what shows on the highway map to be paved Highway 7 from Orofino south to Nez Perce. Actually, this was a gravel road which wound up the south side of the Clearwater canyon onto the Camas Prairie. Beautiful scenery, but a hard road. In Nez Perce, I had free run of the Lewis County vault, but there was nothing to be found there. I asked about earlier records, and they indicated they had an off-site storage room, but there was no organization to it. (I can just imagine, but I would still like to see in it.)

Another "Good Read"

Just before leaving on my latest trip to Spokane, I checked out a book from the library which I had been meaning to read. It is Beer and Brewing in the Inland Northwest, 1850 to 1950 by Herman Ronnenberg, published by the University of Idaho Press, Moscow, in 1993. ISBN0-89301-162-2. I had met Ronnenberg several years ago while he was doing research for this book at the Idaho Historical Library. Most of the book deals with Idaho subjects, and only touches briefly on OR, WA, and MT. I am only about halfway through the book, and had the good fortune to attribute a maverick using this book.

In 1985 I bought a token from John Cooper's Coin Shop in Boise. That was about the time I first met Wally Waters as he was working there at the time. In addition to a several mavericks from Lewiston and the Camas Prairie area, he had this 21mm brass one attributed to Idaho. I have kept it with other possible Idaho pieces as I could never find a directory listing for A. W. Ward. Sure enough, in Ronnenberg's book where he was discussing the relationships that existed between the breweries and the retail outlets, he says "in 1905, Spokane Brewing and Malting sent \$300 to A. W. Waed of Lewiston to pay for his license." So now we have #LEVI-72. I will now concentrate my research on the 1905 timeframe. I'll bet that I can find Ward listed in the Nez Perce County Commissioners' minutes with his application for a saloon license. Definitely more to follow on this one!



While in Moscow, I stopped by the U of I Press to buy a copy of the Ronnenberg book. I had passed up a chance to get one during their Spring 1996 sale, so I felt fortunate that they had a copy left which I got for \$13.50, 50% off. They are located in Brink Hall which I had a tough time finding. If they had directed me to Willis Sweet Hall, I would have recognized it as the men's dormitory I saw every day while I was there.

The Gathering

A couple of last-minute items regarding July 26. That evening we have the Syringa Room reserved from 5:00 p.m. to Midnight at the Vista Holiday Inn. I think \$40.00 is a pretty good deal – we can divide it by however many collectors show. For our picnic lunch in the Boise Basin, I suggest stopping by a Subway sandwich shop on our way out of town and getting our lunch. I will bring a big cooler with ice to keep the goodies cold. And, depending on how fast time flies while we are on our tour, we will plan on dinner somewhere. If we get a chance we will post the details on the door of the Syringa Room in case some folks don't make the field trip.

The Idaho Statesman carried an ad last Sunday for an estate auction which will be going on in Placerville while we are there. Jack Craig's family has been in Placerville since 1874; his family rebuilt the Robison Grocery store in the 1930's and he lived in the building since 1970. You may want to "get a number" and participate while I watch your sandwich.

Please bring your traders, want lists, etc. And don't limit what you bring to tokens. Any kind of Idahoania is fair game. Postcards, checks, stock certificates, just to name a few. And, if you have any new listings for the Idaho token catalog, bring them along as I will have my camera setup.

If you happen not to go on our field trip to the Boise Basin, but plan to be part of the evening of trading, meet at the Syringa Room at the Holiday Inn. It is reserved under the group name "Idaho Token Collectors", so you should be able to go ahead and get started if the rest of us are a tad bit late. I have heard from quite a few of you that you will be able to make it. The more the merrier! If you are in doubt about coming or need a ride, let somebody know.

Where are they now?

Here are several tokens for which I have sketchy information. Please check your collection and let me know if you have the piece. Or, if you know who has it and can get an accurate description or rubbing,, that would help, too.

EVANS MERCANTILE CO. / American Falls // \$1 (in Schell's 2nd Edition)
J. P. JONES / (Teton) // 12½¢ (in Schell's 2nd Edition)
A. D. HENDERSON & CO. / Clifton // \$1 (rumored to exist)
POST EXCHANGE / 50¢ / Ft. Sherman 36mm brass (I have a photo!)
MIHLBERGER & BRITT / Gilmore // 12½¢ (I think John Gold once had it)
GEORGE BRIGGS / Lyman // \$1 (Listed in Rulau's Gay 90's Book)
METRO BAR / Oldtown // Rain Check (Plastic token)
THE MINT / Rupert // 12½¢ (listed in an Alpert mail bid 10-18-95)
FOGG & JACOBS / St. Anthony // 5 (in Schell's 2nd Edition)
THE STAG / Shelley // 5¢ (in Schell's 1st Edition)
MIKE'S PLACE / Twin Falls // 12½¢ (rumored to exist)
MOOSE HOME CLUB ROOMS / (Twin Falls) // 12½¢ (in Schell's 1st Edition)
J. M. / Weiser // 5¢ (in Schell's 1st Edition)

The Ballou-Latimer Drug Company, Limited

In March of 1901, two clerks in the employ of one of Idaho's pioneer drug firms, the Charles L. Joy Company, joined together to form a competing company which proved to outlast the former business. Clarence O. Ballou became president of the new corporation and James B. Latimer was vice president. The new firm purchased the stock and fixtures of the W. S. Galbraith drug store at 117 North Eighth Street in Boise. The store was on the ground floor of the Odd Fellows Building; the lodge being typical of many fraternal organizations had their meeting rooms and offices in the upper floors and leased the storefront on the ground floor to provide a source of income to the lodge. The store was in a prime location, immediately south of the Boise City National Bank (which is the impressive four-story stone building at the corner of Eighth and Idaho, now known as the Simplot Building), and across Eighth Street from City Hall.

Clarence O. Ballou was born near Chicago on January 18, 1866, son of Orlando R. and Elizabeth Boyd Ballou. He moved with his family to Sonoma County, California in 1872 and on to Umatilla County, Oregon in 1878. He studied pharmacy at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington and worked at a Walla Walla drug store until 1896 when he moved to Boise and went to work for the Joy Drug Company.

James B. Latimer was born at Masonville, Iowa on December 31, 1874. After completing school and at the age of 20, he moved to Hailey, Idaho, where he worked as an express agent. In 1899 he moved to Boise where he worked for Charles L. Joy's drug store.



Latimer died at the young age of 38 on the 3rd of July, 1912. He had suffered from spleen disease for two years, and had spent the previous winter in Florida hoping that a change of climate would be beneficial. His widow, Josephine, was left as vice president of the drug firm. On January 1, 1913, Ballou-Latimer's moved into a store in the newly-constructed McCarty Building on the northeast corner of Ninth and Idaho. This postcard view was taken in the new quarters. From the right, one

can see the rack of picture postcards, along the Ninth Street windows are ice cream parlor tables and chairs, a sundries counter, and the Kodak section in the rear. Coming back along the east wall are the pharmacy counter, the soda fountain with its backbar, and a cigar counter on the far right.



Ballou-Latimer and the other token-issuing drug stores used tokens as business stimulants.

When a customer had a prescription to fill, the pharmacist gave him a token, thereby encouraging him to shop around the store for other merchandise or to relax at the soda fountain instead of waiting impatiently at the drug counter. There may also have been arrangements made with local doctors to give tokens with written prescriptions to direct business to the pharmacy. The McCrum & Deary Drug Company, Overland Pharmacy, and Ballou-Latimer all used tokens good for 10¢. The Joy Drug Company's tokens were good for one cigar, and Whiteheads' tokens were good for a glass of cream soda at their fountain.

Clarence Ballou was injured in an automobile accident in August, 1928. Even though he traveled to California to visit specialists, he never recovered and died from complications on February 28, 1929. The business continued on, but it suffered a major loss on December 17, 1945 when fire gutted the McCarty Building, destroying the soda fountain and other fixtures. Scars of this fire can still be seen where brickwork was repaired on the upper story windows of the building. My older sister tells of leaving Boise High School and walking past the icy confusion of the fire on her way to St. Alphonsus Hospital where her baby brother was born that day.

In later years the pharmacy was eliminated and a jewelry store was carved out of the corner of the Ballou-Latimer store, leaving an L-shaped store with entrances to the photography department on Ninth Street and the card and gift shop on Idaho Street. The business succumbed to suburban competition in the early 1990s. Now the space is occupied by a yogurt and sandwich shop.

It's the Law!

From the Session Laws of Idaho for the First Session of the Legislature of the State of Idaho, 1891:

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, by himself, by agent, or otherwise, to sell spirituous, malt or fermented liquors or wines to be drank in, on, or about the premises where sold, without having first procured a license and giving a bond as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. All applications for a license to sell intoxicating, spirituous, malt or fermented liquors or wines to be drank in, on, or about the premises where sold, must be made to the board of county commissioners of the county wherein it is proposed to sell such liquors, and shall be granted by said board as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3. Before any license is issued the applicant shall produce before said board the receipt of the sheriff, showing that he has paid into his hands the amount due for such license, and execute and deliver to said board his bond to the State of Idaho, which bond shall be in the penal sum of one thousand dollars, with at least two good and sufficient sureties, residents and householders or freeholders of the county, who shall on oath justify

in double the penal sum of the bond, to be approved by the said board of county commissioners; said bond shall be in substantially the following form:

Whereas,, of, has applied, or is about to apply, to the board of county commissioners of County, Idaho, for a license to sell intoxicating liquors to be drank in, on, or about the premises where sold, at, in said County, for the time of months from and after the

We,, hereby undertake that the above named, if granted such license, will keep a quiet and orderly house for the sale of such intoxicating liquors, and will well and faithfully keep and observe all the laws of Idaho in regard to the sale of intoxicating liquors, and will well and faithfully keep and regard the provisions of any ordinances and regulations of any municipal organization of the place where such business is to be conducted relating to the keeping of saloons, taverns, and the sale of intoxicating liquors; and if said fails to perform any of the conditions of this bond, or violates any of the provisions of the laws in regard to the sale of intoxicating liquors or the keeping of saloons and taverns, we will pay all costs, damages, fines and forfeitures resulting therefrom, not to exceed the sum of one thousand dollars; and no such bond shall be void upon its first recovery, but it may be sued upon and recovered upon from time to time as herein authorized, until the whole penalty thereof is exhausted. The board of county commissioners may require any licensee under the provisions of this act to file an additional bond or furnish additional sureties at any time when in their judgment the bonds furnished by any licensee are insufficient.

More to come on the development of laws as they relate to token-issuing businesses.

Best,

John D. Mutch
7931 Crestwood Drive
Boise, ID 83704-3022